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January 25, 2006

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Attn: Art Unit 2653 - Examiner Allen J. Heinz

FROM: George O. Saile, Reg. No. 19,572  
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SUBJECT: Serial #: 10/657,504  
File Date: 09/08/03  
Inventor: Kunliang Zhang et al.  
Examiner: Allen J. Heinz  
Art Unit: 2653  
Title: SUPPLEMENTARY SHIELD FOR CPP GMR READ HEAD

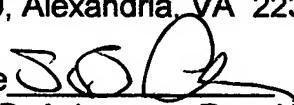
#### RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Restriction Requirement in the Office Action dated 01/12/06. In that office action, restriction was required to one of the following Inventions under 35 U.S. C. 121:

#### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on JAN. 30, 2006

Signature   
Stephen B. Ackerman, Reg. No. 37,761

Date: 1/30/06

The inventions stated are:

I - Claims 1-6, 13-20 drawn to a method of fabricating a spin valve/GMR read head element, classified in class 29, subclass 603.14, and

II - Claims 7-12, 21-28, drawn to a spin valve/GMR read head element, classified in class 360, subclass 324.1.

Applicant provisionally elects to be examined the Invention described by the Examiner as Group I - Claims 1-6, 13-20 drawn to a process classified in Class 29, subclass 603.14. This election is made with traverse of the requirement under 37 C.F.R. 1.143 for the reasons given in the following paragraphs.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the Requirement for Restriction in the Office Action.

The Examiner gives the reasons for the distinctness between Inventions I and II as (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different product, or (2) the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (M.P.E.P. 806.05(f)). However, upon reading the process Claims against the product Claims one can readily see that the process Claims are directed to a method of forming "a method to reduce read gap width in a CPP spin valve, having top and bottom TEC leads", and that the product claims are directed to "a CPP spin valve, having top and

bottom TEC leads and a read gap ", and that it is necessary to obtain claims in both the process and product claim language. The process claims necessarily use the product and vice versa. The field of search must necessarily cover both the process class/subclass 29/603.14 and product class/subclass 360/324.1, in addition to other related classes and subclasses, to provide a complete and adequate search. The fields of search for Groups I and II are clearly and necessarily co-extensive. The Examiner's suggestion that "In the instant case, the article can be fabricated using steps which do not follow the same chronological order of the claimed steps and/or may omit certain step(s)" is speculative and has nothing to do with the Claims as presented in this patent application.

Further, it is respectfully suggested that these reasons are insufficient to place the additional cost of second and third patent applications upon the applicants. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw this restriction requirement for these reasons.

Withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement, and allowance of the present Patent Application, is respectfully requested.

It is requested that should there be any problems with this response, please call the undersigned Attorney at (845) 452-5863.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen B. Ackerman, Reg. No. 37,761